

Energize Indiana Update

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2003

Gov. Frank O'Bannon: 1930-2003



Gov. Frank O'Bannon talks with Bob Hutchings, Cinergy, and longtime friend and colleague Bob Kovach, Ivy Tech, at the Energize Indiana forum in Kokomo, June 18.

The News in Brief...

Gov. O'Bannon remembered as job-creation discussion continues at Ivy Tech

Gov. Joe Kernan told nearly 200 Northern Indiana elected officials and business and community leaders in South Bend Wednesday that, if Gov. Frank O'Bannon were in attendance, he would liken his administration's Energize Indiana job creation program to the "topping out" ceremony of a building project. Gov. O'Bannon told audiences that EI represents what can be done when leaders work together to better prepare Indiana for the future.

Last week's forum was the 11th of 12 Energize Indiana forums held this summer and fall around Indiana. Gov. Kernan also chaired the monthly meeting of the Education Roundtable, one of Gov. O'Bannon's crowning achievements. As Gov. O'Bannon said, "there is no more basic nor more important economic development tool than the education of our children."

[Click here to take the EI survey!](#)



Economic profile: Department of Commerce Region 2

Elkhart, Fulton, Lagrange, LaPorte, Kosciusko,
Marshall, Pulaski, St. Joseph and Starke counties

Profile: High concentration of large employers makes Region 2 prime for innovation

Region 2 is home to 37 major employers (with 500 or more employees), including a high concentration of manufacturing jobs, making it a prime target for transformation through Energize Indiana. Advanced manufacturing, one of EI's foci, is traditional manufacturing that incorporates technology to improve efficiency and productivity. Region 2's manufacturing concentration, numerous employees and strong workforce position it to be a major player in creating the high-wage, high-skill jobs of tomorrow.

Success story: AM General "humming" right along

As the manufacturer of the all-new Hummer H2, Mishawaka's AM General plant is a gem of Region 2. The 1,100 employees at AM General's H2 plant are using the latest automotive lean manufacturing techniques. Recognizing the need for a highly skilled workforce to ensure quality in a relatively low-volume operation, AM General has conducted over 170,000 hours of training.



Gov. Kernan with [Region 2 Commerce staff](#): Administrative Coordinator Joyce Endres, Director Sharon Kendall and Program Manager Cynthia Crump.

For more about Energize Indiana:

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The Ports of Indiana
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The 21st Century
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